

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, paragraph 0018, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0018] Fig. 1 shows a check valve arrangement 10 made in accordance with the present invention. The arrangement 10 includes a modular fluid casing 12 having one or more in-line check valves (and preferably two check valves 14, 14' as shown in Fig. 2) received within the modular casing 12. Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, the modular casing 12 includes a housing or receiving member 16 having an inner surface 18 and an outer surface 20 and a one-piece modular cage 32 having a first open end 34 and a second open end 36 removably seated within the housing 16. The housing 16 includes an inlet end 22 and an outlet end 24, wherein the inner surface 18 defines a flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 between the inlet end 22 and the outlet end 24 of the housing 16. The flow channel 26 is in fluid communication with the inlet end 22 and outlet end 24 of the housing 16 as shown in Fig. 3. The modular cage 32 includes a body 38 having an interior surface 40 and an exterior surface 42, wherein the interior surface 40 defines an interior cavity 44 between the first open end 34 and the second open end 36 of the body 38 of the modular cage 32. Referring to Fig. 2, the interior cavity 44 of the modular cage 32 is adapted to be in fluid communication with the inlet end 22 and the outlet end 24 of the housing 16. The interior cavity 44 of the modular cage 32 is also adapted to receive the in-line check valves 14 and 14' via the second open end 36 of the modular cage 32. The check valves 14, 14' have outer surfaces 15 as shown in Fig. 3. The in-line check valves 14, 14' are similar to those shown and described in U.S. Patent No. 6,513,543 to Noll et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference. The modular fluid casing 12 can be geometric shaped, such as tubular shaped, rectangular shaped, hexagonal shaped, or other polygonal shaped, and can be made of metal or a polymeric material, such as plastic. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, paragraph 0019, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0019] Fig. 2 shows the check valve arrangement 10, wherein the modular cage 32 is removably seated within the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 of the housing 16. Referring to Figs. 1 and 4, the modular cage 32 includes a plurality of protrusions 46 extending outwardly from the exterior surface 42 of the body 38 of the modular cage 32. Two of the protrusions 46 are defined on one side of the body 38 of the modular cage 32 and two of

the protrusions 46 (not shown) are defined on an opposite side of the body 38 of the modular cage 32. Referring to Fig. 4, a slot or hole 48 is defined in each protrusion 46, wherein the slot 48 is adapted to receive a fastener 50 (shown in Fig. 1) for securing the modular cage 32 to the housing 16. Referring to Fig. 3, a lip 52 is defined on the interior surface 40 of the interior cavity 44 of the body 38 of the modular cage 32, wherein a first diameter portion D1 of the interior cavity 44 adjacent the first open end 34 has a diameter d_1 less than a diameter d_2 of a second diameter portion D2 of the interior cavity 44 adjacent the second open end 36 of the modular cage 32. The lip 52 separates the first diameter portion D1 from the second diameter portion D2. The first diameter portion D1 of the interior cavity 44 separately and independently holds check valve 14 in place as shown in Fig. 2. Alternatively, the lip 52 can be removed, wherein the diameter d_1 of the first diameter portion D1 is the same as diameter d_2 of the second diameter portion D2. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, paragraph 0023, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0023] Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 of the housing 16 includes a bottom portion 28 having walls B1 and B2 and an upper portion 30 having walls U1 and U2, wherein a length L1 of the bottom portion 28 between walls B1 and B2 is less than a length L2 between walls U1 and U2 of the upper portion 30 of the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 of the housing 16. When the modular cage 32 is received within the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 of the housing 16 as shown in Fig. 2, the gaskets 54, 56 are compressed against the exterior surface 42 of the body 38 of the modular cage 32 and the walls B1, B2, U1, and U2 on the inner surface 18 of the housing 16. A wedged arrangement is formed between the second open end 36 of the body 38 of the modular cage 32 and the inner surface 18 of walls B2 and U2 defined within the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 adjacent the outlet end 24 of the housing 16, thus sealing the modular cage 32 within the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 of the housing 16. Because length L1 is smaller at the bottom portion 28 of the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27, the modular cage 32 is held in place by a tight fit between exterior surface 42 of the body 38 of the modular cage 32 and the walls B1 and B2 at the bottom portion 28 of the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27. Fig. 2 shows the check valves 14' abutting against the wall B2

which is adjacent the outlet end 24 of the housing 16, thus securing the check valve 14' within the interior cavity 44 of the modular cage 32. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, paragraph 0024, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0024] The present invention also provides for a method of installing check valves 14, 14' in line with respect to a fluid conduit using the modular fluid casing 12 of the present invention. Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, check valves 14, 14' having valve gaskets 60 positioned on the outer surfaces 15 of each check valve 14, 14' are inserted through the second open end 36 into the interior cavity 44 of the modular cage 32. One check valve 14 can also be inserted into the interior cavity 44 of the modular cage 32. Gaskets 54, 56 are placed adjacent the first open end 34 and the second open end 36, respectively, of the modular cage 32. Next, the modular cage 32 is inserted into the flow channel 26 or modular cage receiving area 27 of the housing 16. The modular cage 32 and the housing 16 are secured to each other via the fastener 50 passing through the slot 48 in the protrusion 46 of the modular cage 32 and the orifice 64 in the lug 62 of the housing 16 as shown in Fig. 1. Finally, the modular fluid casing 12 is installed in line with respect to a fluid conduit (not shown) at the inlet end 22 and outlet end 24 of the housing 16. The fluid conduit, such as a pipe, can be threaded, welded, flanged, or bolted onto the inlet end 22 and the outlet end 24 of the housing 16. Typically, shut-off valves V (shown in phantom in Fig. 1) are installed at the inlet end 22 and outlet end 24 of the housing 16. --